

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 3, 4 and 5 before calculating the filing fee as shown in the following listing of claims, which replaces all prior versions and listings of claims.

1. (original) An image forming apparatus, which comprises: conveying means, for conveying a sheet; sheet suction means, for holding a sheet on a platen through suction; a print head for, based on image data, moving in a direction perpendicular to a sheet conveying direction and performing printing on the sheet; and control means, for controlling the conveying means and which alternately repeats, for each path, a sheet conveying operation and a printing operation a required number of times to form an image on the sheet, characterized in that:

when the sheet is to be conveyed in a specific direction a predetermined feeding distance ( $L_x$ ) during the conveying operation for each path, the control means permits the conveying means to first convey the sheet a predetermined distance ( $L_1$ ) in the specific direction (+X direction), then to convey the sheet a direction (-X), the opposite of the specific direction (+X), a distance ( $L$ :  $L = L_1 + \Delta L_1$ ) that is obtained by adding a short distance ( $\Delta L_1$ ) to the predetermined distance ( $L_1$ ), and to further convey the sheet in the specific direction (+X) a distance ( $L_x + \Delta L_1$ ).

2. (original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that:

the control means permits the conveying means to repeat, multiple (n) times, during the conveying operation for one path, the conveying of a sheet the predetermined distance (L1) in the specific direction (+X direction) and reverse feeding of the sheet in the direction (-X), opposite the specific direction (+X), a distance (L:  $L = L1 + \Delta L1$ ), which is obtained by adding a short distance ( $\Delta L1$ ) to the predetermined distance (L1); and to finally convey the sheet in the specific direction (+X) a distance ( $Lx + n \times \Delta L1$ ).

3.-5. (canceled)